

61 River Street (House)
61 River Street
Wallace
Shoshone County
Idaho

HABS No. ID-93

HABS

ID.

40-WAL.

7-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of Interior
San Francisco, California 94102

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

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STATE Idaho	COUNTY Shoshone	TOWN OR VICINITY City of Wallace
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) 61 River St. (House) (See supplement)		HABS NO. ID-93
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 61 River St., Wallace, Idaho (Legal: NE First Addition, Lot 3, Block 3)		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Circa 1900 (see supplement)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Not known	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) See supplement		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) See supplement		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) See supplement		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE See supplement		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) See supplement		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES See supplement		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Condition fair, currently vacant		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE House is scheduled to be torn down in 1988 to make way for a motel-restaurant-gift shop complex		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Natl. Register of Historic Places, Safeco Title Co., Shoshone County Assessor's Office, Sanborn Fire Maps, Barnard-Stockbridge Photo Collection, Harry Olson, Richard Magnuson, Wallace Public Library, Census Bureau		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Michael J. Green, Depot Productions, Wallace, Idaho		DATE May 1988

61 RIVER ST. (HOUSE)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The house at 61 River St. is a compatible element of the Wallace Historic District and is located in a residential area containing homes constructed between 1910 and 1920.

The City of Wallace was first settled in 1884. It is located along the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and at the mouth of three side creeks and gulches amid North Idaho's steep Panhandle. The founding of the town followed discovery of fabulous lead-silver deposits in the surrounding mountains. As mining activity quickly grew, so did the town. By 1887 the population was 500, which grew to 2,816 by 1920 (U.S. Census Bureau).

The town flourished from mining activities, and Wallace became known as the Silver Capital of the World because more silver has been extracted from the Coeur d'Alene Mining District, with Wallace as the hub, than any place on earth.

Much of the town was located on a cedar swamp, which was drained as growth occurred. The west end of town containing this house was drained and developed last. Northern Pacific Railway first owned this land in west Wallace. NP leased to private individuals this land on which was built many homes. NP deeded the land to the homeowners in a period from 1920 to 1925. This addition to the town is known as the NP First Addition.

Dating exact construction of most of the houses is difficult because the first deeding of the property occurred after the homes were built. The Minnesota State Historical Society, Archives Manuscripts Division, which possesses defunct NP's records, could not locate copies of the original leases. Early fire maps and photographs show no homes built in that area prior to 1910. Most of the homes, then, were constructed from 1910-1920.

These dates were confirmed by Harry Olson, who has lived in west Wallace since 1922. He said in an interview most of the houses in west Wallace were already constructed when he moved there in 1922. He was 10 years old at the time.

Olson remembers nothing distinctive about west Wallace other than it being an ordinary residential part of town. Its residents were a mixture of business and working people, including miners, a druggist, county commissioner and even "bootleggers." The streets were paved in the addition about 1920, Olson said. A flood in

1933 caused considerable damage to the streets and homes; he said.

As mining activity in the district began to decline in the 1970s and 1980s, so did the number of jobs and demand for homes. The 1988 population of Wallace was 1,460 (source: Association of Idaho Cities). The character of some homes changed as they went from owner-occupied to rentals. Some deteriorated from lack of care. (Some had been rentals for most of their existence.)

Because of the fast growth of the town in a short time span, Wallace contains a unique homogenous blend of architecture, which led to first a few buildings, then the downtown district, then the entire core of town listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mining towns tend to have a transient population, and many homes have had numerous owners as a result. The house at 61 River St. is no exception.

The first recorded deed of the house wasn't until May 13, 1943, when Lura Ellers deeded the house to Ruby E. Whitley. It wasn't until June 5, 1944, that the deed was recorded from NP to Lura Ellers. The successive deedings were (dates are the days in which the deeds were recorded): Ruby E. Whitly, a widow, to Harry Thatcher, July 26, 1952; to Gordon Peck, July 26, 1952; to Sullivan Mining Co., August 7, 1952; to Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mining Co., Dec. 3, 1955; to Wayne Knoll, Jan. 23, 1957; to Hecla Mining Co., March 4, 1969; to Daniel E. Reule, April 22, 1974; to Troy Williams, Aug. 9, 1979 (see next paragraph); to Cecil R. Williams, March 3, 1988; and to J. Kimball Barnard, April 28, 1988.

County records contain a sales verification showing Lydia Wunderlich, personal representative of the estate of Daniel E. Reule, sold the house to Troy Williams for \$15,000 on Aug. 8, 1979. Williams was the last person to live in the house. Since his death in September 1987, the house has been vacant.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS

A Sanborn Fire Map shows the house was built by 1905, minus an addition and altered porches. The 1927 version of the same map shows the same L-shaped house. But by that time the former 12x10-foot back porch was replaced by 6x20-foot porches in the front and back. Both maps show the house had a shake roof. By 1985, a bedroom had been added on the north side, the back porch was finished, two partial new roofs had been added and a newer front porch was built. County records show a garage built circa 1920, a cinderblock foundation and a sheet-metal roof added in 1954,

and asbestos shakes added in 1960 over lap siding.

EXTERIOR FEATURES

The house is T-shaped and one story with two porches. It has a concrete-block foundation that is unpainted. Exterior covering is large asbestos shingles, pink and gray in color, over lap siding, cream colored.

With a T-shape, the roof of the house has two cross gables. The roof is all corrugated metal. The front porch has a sloping roof that extends out from the main roof, and the rear porch has an extended gable roof over an earlier roof. The eaves are boxed. Attached to the west wall is a brick chimney from which extends an 18" circular lining and cap. The chimney currently serves nothing in the house. Near the brick chimney in the wall is a gas flue that services a small wall gas furnace inside.

Five concrete steps lead up to the front porch that is enclosed by four large aluminum-frame windows and low walls. An aluminum storm door gains access to the porch and front door that is a 90-degree left turn from the first entry. Six concrete steps gain access to the enclosed back porch. A glazed wood door provides entrance to the porch and the glass-paned wood house door and screen door. The porch has been finished with paneling, however, on the inside wall lap siding and shake roof

Three concrete steps lead to the basement door on the north side.

Windows on the east side are wood frame and set; windows on the south side are double-hung sash 3/1; and windows on the west and north sides are double-hung sash 2/2. All have aluminum storm windows. The basement has two wood frame windows each on the north and east sides.

An unattached garage is located in the rear, north side and is accessed by Tamarack St. The garage is wood frame with a gable roof, corrugated-metal roofing, exposed rafters, two-car doors on the north side and an access door on the south side. It has the same siding as the house.

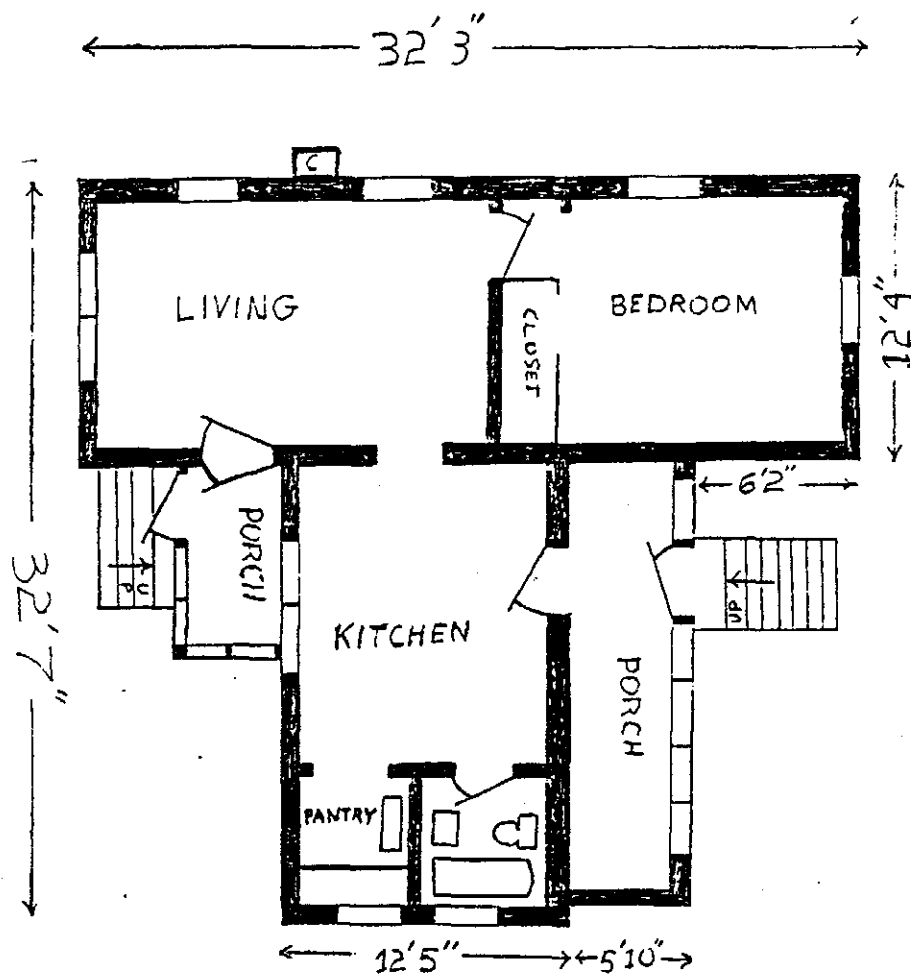
INTERIOR FEATURES

With a pantry and bathroom located off the kitchen, the layout of the interior is indicative of an earlier construction time than the remaining neighborhood. The house has complete new interior coverings, however.

The house has been completely paneled, which covers wallpaper over fabric over wood walls. The floors are a combination of linoleum and carpeting over softwood floors. A chimney on the east kitchen wall has been covered in the kitchen and by a new roof. The pantry has softwood cabinets and a single porcelain sink hung from the wall.

Heat source is added electric baseboard and a small gas furnace in the west wall.

The basement has a combination of dirt and concrete floor. Several rooms are partitioned off, and the rooms contain a work bench and cupboards. The basement formerly had plank walls.



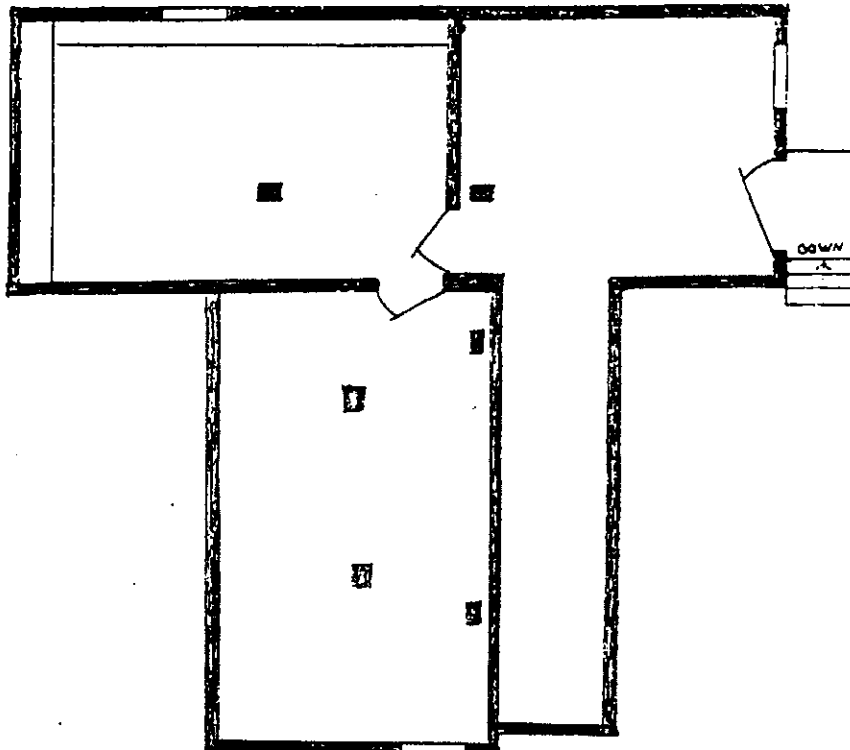
SCALE
 $\frac{1}{8}" = 1'$
M. J. GREEN

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SCALE

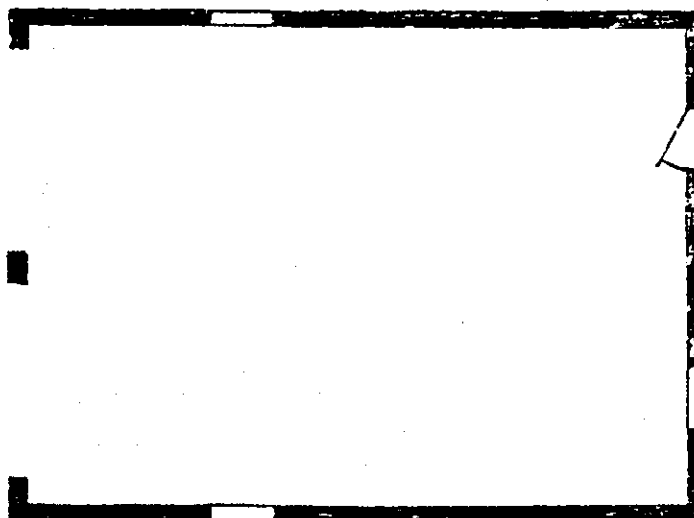
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M. J. GREEN



BASEMENT

28'6"



GARAGE

20'6"

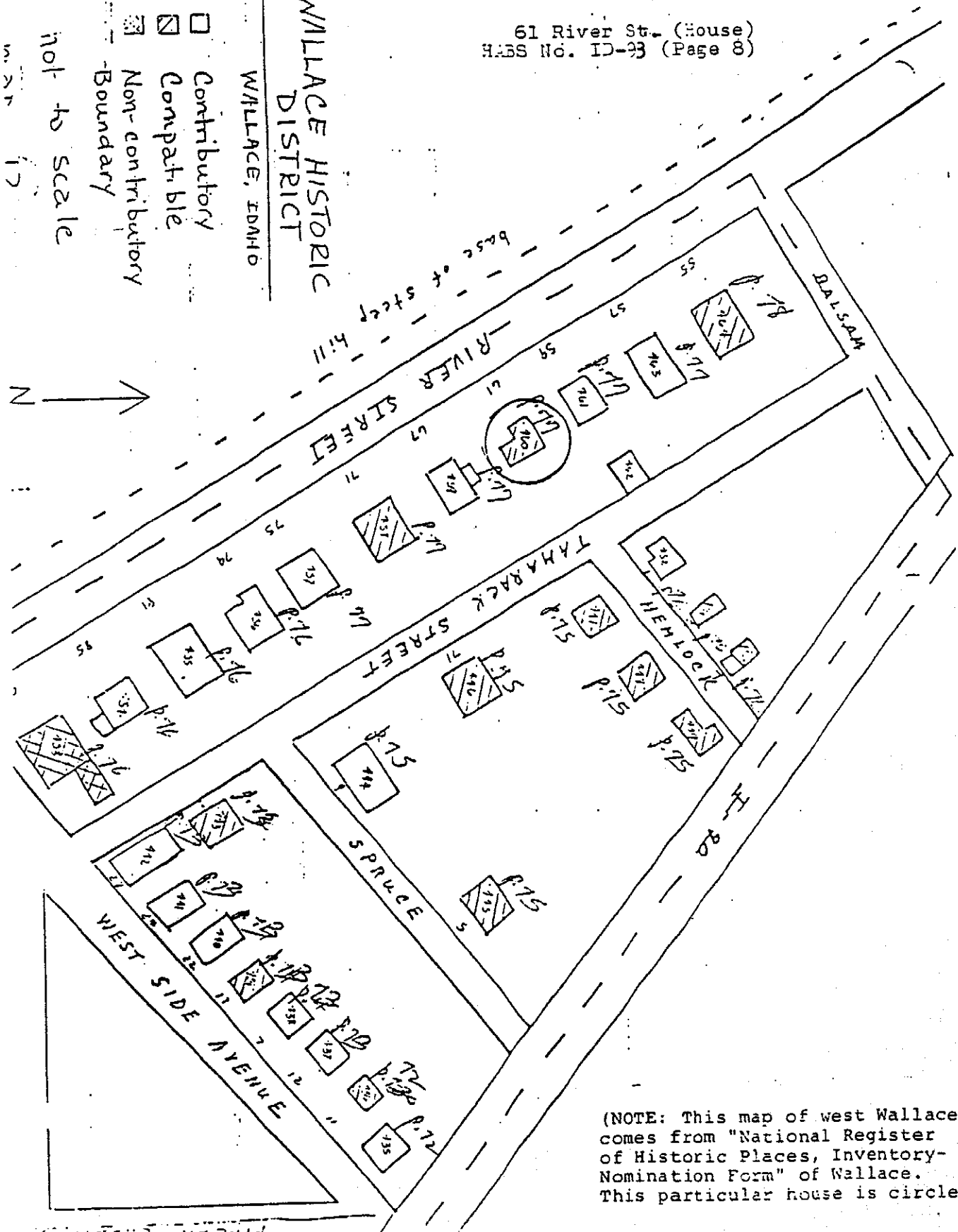
WALLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT

WALLACE, IDAHO

- ☐ Contributory
- ☒ Compatible
- ☐ Non-contributory
- ☐ Boundary

not to scale

map 17



(NOTE: This map of west Wallace comes from "National Register of Historic Places, Inventory-Nomination Form" of Wallace. This particular house is circled